



Polish American Arts Association of Washington, DC

Affiliate of the American Council for Polish Culture, Inc. since 1966

July 18, 2022

National Capital Planning Commission
Re: The Pennsylvania Initiative

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Dear Members of the National Capital Planning Commission:

The Polish American Arts Association (PAAA) of Washington, D.C. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 1966 and dedicated to creating public awareness of the richness of Polish culture and to supporting greater cooperation and understanding between the United States and Poland in the fields of art, culture and education. As President of this leading Polish American organization in Washington, D.C. focused on the arts, I am writing to offer comments to your proposed new vision of Pennsylvania Avenue as they relate to the statue of General Casimir Pulaski, which is located at the foot of Freedom Plaza.

Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski was a Polish nobleman who volunteered to serve the American cause of liberty during the Revolutionary War. Gen. Pulaski helped form and outfit one of the first American Cavalry units and thus earned the title "Father of American Cavalry." At the Battle of Brandywine, Pulaski's leadership helped General Washington's forces successfully evade British capture. At the second Battle of Savannah in October 1779, General Pulaski suffered a mortal wound during an assault against British positions and perished several days later. Casimir Pulaski gave his life for the cause of American liberty, and in 2009 the United States Congress granted Pulaski honorary citizenship of the United States of America.

The General Pulaski Statue, funded by the United States Congress and erected over a century ago, was designed by sculptor Kazimierz Chodzinski and architect Albert R. Ross. It was unveiled on May 11, 1910 with President William Howard Taft in attendance. The statue is included in the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. Today, as a site of public commemoration and homage, the General Casimir Pulaski statue is important for Americans of all walks of life, and Polish Americans especially. We urge the Commission to ensure that in any future vision for Pennsylvania Avenue, the General Casimir Pulaski statue remains displayed prominently and without obstruction so that future generations can continue to learn about and appreciate this Polish American hero.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matthew Stefanski
President

www.paaa.us

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